

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

NAHRWOLD, Thomas

Serial No.: 09/888,478

Examiner: KIM, Chong Hwa

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Group Art Unit: 3682

Title: LUBRICANT COOLING SYSTEM FOR A MOTOR VEHICLE AXLE

APPENDIX

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claims 1, 7 and 8 as follows.

2. (Amended) A system for circulating lubricant in an assembly, comprising:
- a housing adapted to contain a reservoir of hydraulic lubricant;
 - an aperture in the housing to permit lubricant circulation;
 - a chamber located adjacent the aperture, adapted to hold lubricant therein, the chamber located at a first elevation;
 - a component supported for rotation partially in the lubricant and partially in a portion of the housing located above the lubricant, having means for moving lubricant from the reservoir to the chamber;

a lubricant cooler disposed outside of said housing; and

conduit means having a first end hydraulically connected to the chamber and a second end hydraulically connected to said cooler at a location that is distant from the reservoir and at a second elevation lower than the first elevation, for carrying lubricant from the chamber to the cooler, using gravity to transport lubricant from the first elevation to the second elevation,

wherein:

the housing includes first and second axle tubes extending outward in opposite directions from the reservoir; and

the conduit means includes first and second conduits, the first conduit having a first end connected to the chamber and a second end hydraulically connected to said cooler mounted external the first axle tube of the housing.

7. The system of claim [5] 6, wherein said valve is a temperature-sensitive flow control element to control flow based at least in part on the temperature of the lubricant.

8. The system of claim [5] 6, wherein said valve comprises a spring member.